

Major Moves Help Desk

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

Sen. Howard is First Legislative Dem for Major Moves

Indianapolis Star—online
February 23, 2006
By Mary Beth Schneider

Sen. Glenn Howard of Indianapolis [Thursday] became the first Democratic legislator to endorse Gov. Mitch Daniels' Major Moves transportation plan to lease the Indiana Toll Road in order to raise \$3.85 billion.

Howard and a group of seven black ministers from the Ministerial Alliance joined Daniels in his Statehouse office to support the plan, which was approved in an 8 to 4 party-line vote [Thursday] morning by the Senate Appropriations Committee, saying the need to create jobs is paramount.

"Sometimes in the city when I look and see young men going off to prison, no hope, young ladies getting pregnant, no hope," Howard said. "When this thing came about and I just jumped up and said, 'Uh, oh. That's something for me to talk about,' So I got in touch with the governor... I'm very supportive of this new thing we're trying to do. When I see young men, young women with no hope and I'm an elected official, it bothers me."

"With this governor's leadership, we can begin to make these young people more responsive," Howard said. "I think God told me, 'Say, Glenn, get up and get on that.' What if they're not going to like me for this? Well, that's tough."

Howard's endorsement comes [two] day[s] after the rest of the 17 Senate Democrats criticized the plan, saying the bill was a risky financial deal.

"I want to salute Sen. Howard's courage in doing this and his willingness to put jobs and opportunity for young people ahead of all other considerations, partisan and otherwise," Daniels said.

Daniels said the plan will create construction, transportation and distribution jobs and said he was committed to trying to make sure those jobs reach "those who often start life with the fewest breaks."

Daniels, asked about a slew of changes made to the bill in the Senate, said he



Gov. Mitch Daniels was joined by Democratic Sen. Glenn Howard, center, of Indianapolis and the Rev. Ray Ware of the Indiana Ministerial Alliance. (By Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, The C-J)

is pleased the bill is moving forward and anticipates the bill will be further "refined" as it moves through the legislature.

"As long as the core of this bill -- the big goals we're trying to achieve for our future, tens of thousands of jobs, making sure the money is reinvested in hard public assets that will be there long after we're gone, not frittered away on the enthusiasms of today -- I want to be as flexible as I can be about secondary items," he said.

Rally at the Statehouse

WHEN: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

11:00am

WHERE: South Atrium

Indiana Statehouse

COME JOIN THE GOVERNOR AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR MAJOR MOVES AND THE JOBS IT WILL CREATE.

In Case You Missed It...

Evansville Courier & Press
Major Moves will unlock future
February 24, 2006

To the editor:

The Evansville-Area Association of Realtors represents nearly 1,000 members in Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Posey, Gibson, Daviess, Martin, Pike and Dubois counties. The economic development of those counties is vital to maintaining the population, as well as attracting industry and people. We are committed to working with business, industry, government and the private sector to reach out for the economic growth our region so desperately needs. Discussions have been under way for decades to bring Interstate 69 through Southwestern Indiana, all to no avail.

The association thanks Gov. Mitch Daniels for the innovative Major Moves plan. That proposal offers tremendous opportunity for both the Evansville area and Indiana. By unlocking the value in some of Indiana's public assets, the extension of I-69 and other projects critical to our communities can be accelerated.

If public-private partnerships and tolling are needed to connect Evansville to the rest of Indiana's interstate highway system, then we should pursue those arrangements. Our region has waited decades for this project, and Major Moves is the only plan on the table that can realistically bring it to fruition. We can't afford to miss this opportunity.

Investment in our transportation infrastructure is vital, and job creation is our economic development priority. As we market ourselves to firms looking to expand and locate in our corner of the state, we need to say that funding for I-69 is secured and that it will be a reality soon.

For these reasons, we endorse the Major Moves program.

K. Michael Schultz
President on behalf of the Board of Directors
Evansville

Did You Know?

The average daily one-way commute in Indiana increased from 20.4 to 22.6 minutes from 1990-2000.

The equals an increase of 18 hours sitting in traffic every year.